

CHECK ON FRAUDS

Only Regular Physicians to Practice Hypnotism.

EVILS THAT MAY COME FROM IT

There Should Always Be the Presence of a Reliable Witness—The "Death Trance" to Save Life.



THE bill has been introduced in the New York legislature to prohibit hypnotism by any other persons than regular physicians. It may be assumed that the real purpose of the measure is to protect the revenues of the regular physicians, who are disgruntled by the thriving practice of some of the "magnetic healers." At the same time, for once the interests of the doctors and of the community are in harmony. Unhappily, even the restriction proposed will not afford any satisfying assurance that the mysterious and terrible power now known as "hypnotism" will be confined to those capable of wielding it intelligently and worthily. But it will, at all events, diminish the scope of potentiality for mischief.

Legal restrictions upon the practice of hypnotism already exist in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, France and other European countries, and must certainly be imposed everywhere, when the real necessity for them is duly appreciated. The present trouble is that this psychic force is ignorantly underestimated by a very large proportion of the public, who, seeing that so many so-called "hypnotizers" and "mesmerists" are charlatans, and not a few "magnetic healers" merely, impatiently assume that "the whole business is humbug and superstition." Not many generations ago electricity was popularly regarded in much the same way. Intelligent persons who keep themselves informed upon the progress of science in this age of mental activity will not make this mistake. They comprehend that there are in hypnotism immense dangers, both immediate and ultimate, for the persons subjected to this influence and for the community as well through the irresponsible actions of such persons under unworthy control. Hypnotism—which is simply the scientific modern name for "animal magnetism"—enables the "operator" to dominate absolutely the will, memory, moral perceptions, senses and even the physical being of the "subject." All this has, by a myriad of scrupulously conducted tests, been demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt. Well, therefore, might the eminent Dr. C. G. Rau, in his great work on "Psychology," offer the warning that "no one should allow himself to be mesmerized unless for a good and noble end, and not for mere play to pass time, and under no consideration without the presence of a reliable witness." And this power may be exercised upon psychopathic and neuropathic "sensitives" without their consent, or even their consciousness. As long ago as 1820, Baron Dupotet, in the presence of Prof. Reclamier, at the Hotel Dieu hospital in Paris, mesmerized a woman who was in another room and did not even know that he was in the building. Dr. Horicourt in 1855 and P. Janet in 1856, hypnotized sensitives at a distance respectively of three hundred and five hundred meters from them and against the desires of their subjects. It is even matter of record that the power has been successfully exercised in many instances at even much greater distances. And not only does it overcome distance but time—a mental suggestion impressed upon the hypnotee when in trance, compelling a recurrence to the trance condition at a future time, hours or even days distant, as determined by the operator, without his further effort or the consciousness of expectancy of the sensitive. It is not to be affirmed that any mesmerizer has the power to magnetize every "subject" presented to him, and still less that even those susceptible to the influence can all be put into a trance condition against their will, but unquestionably there are many who do not possess the strength to resist it. Both Ochorowicz and Voisin have hypnotized mentally diseased persons



against their will. Perrotet, in 1884, proved that the hypnotizer in very many cases needs no other means for hypnotizing than his own firm will. Having seen that this unnatural condition is easy of production by those skilled in employment of the force at a distance and without the aid of the subject, it is pertinent to inquire whether it is a state liable to be dangerous to the subject. Dr. Braid, the inventor of "hypnotism," calls it "a mode of inducing an artificial condition of the nervous system." That is putting it gently. The magnetizers—who rely upon "passes" and "will" instead of "destroying the equilibrium of the nervous system"—declare that his method is "an artificial mode of inducing convulsions, hysterical paroxysms and palpitations of the heart, most dangerous and injurious to those experimented upon." The magnetizers and the hypnotizers squabble with and denounce each other, but inasmuch as the ends they attain are practically the same, the difference between them, which are really more in words than anything else, are of little moment to the public, and they may be looked upon as simply the old and new schools of the same cult. Let us see, however, if Dr. Braid's style of mischief are not conscious of inviting some danger to themselves. One of the most

trivial and thorough works ever prepared on the subject is Miss Chandon Leigh Hunt's "Private Instructions," which is only supposed to get into the hands of students and practitioners, who have to pay a high price for it and are expected to keep it secret. It fairly bristles with "cautions" and warnings like these:

"Experienced magnetizers know that there are certain diseases which can only be mastered by putting the patient in a sleep so deep that it is known as the death trance. Nature sometimes induces this spontaneously, but those who have been treated by magnetism, or are subject to somnambulism, are more likely to fall into this state, sometimes not for a considerable time after, and herein lies the danger, for no doctor, after examining the patient's body, would refuse to supply a certificate of death; consequently, there would be every chance of his being buried alive. * * * Actual death may be the result."

"Some very sensitive subjects, when under control, are magnetized by the conversation of a person in the room, to which they listen with interest, though it may not be addressed to themselves. I once had a lady subject cross-magnetized by a gentleman talking to



"THERE IT IS," CRIED HIS COMPANION, "while she was under my influence. She was a married lady, and the effects did not manifest themselves until after I had de-magnetized her, and then she suddenly expressed a wild and unreasonable infatuation for him, which it took me days to work off, as circumstances did not permit him to de-magnetize her."

"This may lead you to imagine that you may produce any impression you choose with impunity, but against this I must carefully warn you. You may even produce insanity, which will, perhaps, only fully develop itself years after, when it would not be connected with the true source; consequently there would be no hope of your being sent for to remove it, and the orthodox medical men would, by their treatment, so lower the vitality that nature would have no power to throw off the impression, and chronic insanity would be the result."

"Supersensitives whom you have magnetized fall into the magnetic state every time you think of them and most deeply when you magnetize other subjects, no matter how far distant you may be from them. * * * They may act as you are commanding your subject at the time to act, and start dancing in a public assembly, or suddenly fall down in the magnetic sleep, or become paralyzed like a statue in the middle of a high road and be in danger of being run over, etc."

All those warnings of liabilities to cause physical disease, demoralization, insanity and death, it is to be observed, are not the averments of enemies of the so-called science, but the privately accorded monitions of an expert teacher, speaking from ripe experience.

When the restriction of hypnotism was under discussion in Italy Prof. Lombroso, of Turin, reported concerning the results of Donato's hypnotizations. "An artillery officer who was hypnotized by Donato at a public séance afterward became almost insane. From time to time he had attacks of spontaneous hypnotism at the sight of any shining object. He would follow a carriage lamp in the street as though spellbound. One evening if his fellow officer had not saved him he would have been crushed to death by going directly towards an approaching carriage. A violent hysterical crisis followed. * * * A railroad employee had convulsions and a violent attack of insanity. A young man of seventeen became morally depraved and became deranged."

Dr. F. Bjornstrom is undoubtedly right in saying as he does in his work "Hypnotism." "Many a time it has happened that an ignorant magnetizer has been able to hypnotize, but not to dehypnotize; thus the nervous system may suffer irremediable injury. By a few hypnoes, many women, who previously had only a slumbering disposition to hysteria, have had this disease brought to full activity with violent hysterical attacks. From all this we find that hypnotism is not to be trifled with; that it can harm in various ways, and that it requires all the skill and conscientiousness of an experienced physician to properly use this powerful agency."

the effects of hypnotism upon the subject is the effect of the subject upon society. That a woman shall be demoralized or a man driven insane, or both of them thrown into a "death trance" and buried alive—as some still assert the mind reader, Bishop, would have been had not the doctors considerably made sure of his demise by slicing him open—is doubtless very sad for the woman and the man concerned. And it may be a grave consideration that one can be hypnotized without his knowledge by some person not near him, and caused to unconsciously give away his diamonds and other valuables. But all those things are less serious than the fact that a suggestion made to a sensitive person during the hypnotic trance may, at the will of the operator, become a hallucination possessing the mind in post-hypnotic conditions and impelling actions during the wakeful state. Liegeois and Liebaux have caused hallucinations produced by suggestion, to persist a whole year and then bear their fruits in actions—prescribed a twelve month before but altogether without the knowledge of the subject, or his volition, until the moment when he found himself irresistibly impelled to perform them. Bernheim, Binet, Fere and many others have done like things. Mr. E. Gurney says (Proc. S. P. R., vol. iv.): "The psychological condition of the 'subject' during the posthypnotic performance of hypnotic commands, and also during the intermediate period after waking and prior to the performance, really admits of great variety. There are cases in which no reason whatever appears for regarding the state in which the actor is performed as other than normal. The subject's account of it afterward is as of something which it just occurred to him he would like to do, and which he did because he chose. While he does it, he is in his usual relation to the external world, and can converse naturally and rationally, and both the performance itself and the surrounding circumstances are completely remembered afterward." But the subject, or, to give him a more appropriate title, the victim—has absolutely no consciousness that the impulse to that action was a suggestion or command of his hypnotizer, given him long before. If the thing done was a crime, he may suffer the legal penalty for it and endure agonies of remorse, yet he will have been powerless to refrain from the doing of it and will be incapable of knowing that the moral guilt is another's. A fatal facility is thus afforded for the easy and safe promotion of almost all crimes, through the unconscious "subject's" obedience to the imperative will of the hypnotizer, communicated by "suggestion" perhaps months before the perpetration. Truly Hufeland was right when he wrote: "The chief qualification of a magnetist is, that he should be in good health and morally pure. Imagination and sensual feelings may be so mixed up with the magnetic force as to produce the most perverse and unhappy consequences." Will we be sure that none others will wield the power if its exercise is legally restricted to physicians?

J. H. CONNELLY.

OVABHERO WOMEN.

Feccularities of the Female Hottentot and Her Love of Geeg-Geeg.

Among the inhabitants of the German domains of southwestern Africa the Hottentots, Bastards, Mountain-Damara, Ovaherero and Ovambo, future supremacy lies undoubtedly in the hands of the Bastards, the offspring of white men and native women, who are at the present day far in the ascendancy. The various tribes are always at war with one another, and the anthropological and ethnographical descriptions pertaining to them are highly interesting. Among the Hottentots the woman is the sole mistress of the house, the affairs of which she controls absolutely. With out her permission the husband and father cannot drink a cup of milk or eat a piece of meat. As with civilized nations the Ovaherero woman is a lover of geeg-geeg. She stands at the head of the tribes of southwestern Africa as the prime devotee to the most massive adornments that she can pile on her body. Long chains of iron beads of enormous weight hang from her neck and are wound around her head and ankles as well as the upper arms, while spiral bands of iron do duty as bracelets, encircling the wrists like a deep, broad cuff. The peculiar adornment of these walking iron mines weighs often more than the whole body of the woman herself.

Cunning of the Seagull.

An example of the cunning of the gulls was observed at Tacoma when several alighted on a bunch of logs that had been in the water for a long time, with the submerged side thick with barnacles. One was a big, gray fellow, who seemed to be the captain. He walked to a particular log, stood on one side of it close to the water, and then uttered peculiar cries. The other gulls came and perched on the same side of the log, which, under their combined weight, rolled over several inches. The gulls, step by step, kept the log rolling until the barnacles showed above the water. The birds picked eagerly at this food, and the log was not abandoned until every barnacle had been picked.

What Dreams Mean.

To dream of a milestone around your neck is a sign of what you may expect if you get an extravagant wife. When a young lady dreams of a coffin it betokens that she should instantly give up lacing her stays tightly and always go warmly and thickly shod in wet weather. To dream of fire is a sign that, if you are wise, you will see that the lights in your house are all safely out before you go to bed. To dream that your nose is red at the tip is a warning that you had better leave off brandy and water.

About Cranberries.

Cranberries are found all over the world in ferny or marshy places. England, which has a small, fine variety, imports them largely from America, Russia and Holland. She has, also, of late years cultivated a variety called snowberry, which is pure white and was brought from Nova Scotia. This cranberry has a perfumed taste, like bitter almonds.

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GIANT

LAST WEEK

We gave you a "Timely Talk"—a sort of general pointer about our spring goods—simply to act as an entering wedge to spring more trade. We are offering more trade. We don't like to "look our horn" too much, but it strikes us that the Giant's progress in stylish, ready-to-wear clothing ought to interest you. You, young men, who want stylish garments—we'll save you one-half on tailor-made garments. You, older men, who look and care more for the steady styles—we have just what you want. We've got the right goods, we've got the right prices. *Pass this in your memory and see our stock before you spend a cent for spring wear.*

SEE NEXT WEEK!